

In Support of HB 5277

My name is Gary Gross, and I am a resident at New Horizons Village in Unionville. I have had cerebral palsy since birth because I was premature, and I am blind and use a wheelchair. I want to give two examples of why we people with disabilities need accessible examining tables and lifts when we go to doctors' appointments

In Jan 2022, I had to go for a bone marrow biopsy at the Cancer Center at UConn Health. My personal care attendant came with me, but the Cancer Center staff would not let her help. So, they got me on the table all right and did the procedure, but they had trouble using the Hoyer lift to get me back into the wheelchair, and they had to get my aide to help.

Every few months I go for a Botox shot to help alleviate spasms in my inner thighs and tightness in my knees from my cerebral palsy. I bring my aide, who has to lift me onto my doctor's exam table because it is not accessible. This is dangerous for both her and me. I like my doctor and have a longstanding relationship, but I don't think that he will get an accessible table without some kind of incentive.

These are examples of why we need HB 5277. Thank you for your consideration.